REMARKS

Claim 47 is pending in the present application. By this amendment, claims 1, 30, 34, 44-45, and 48-50 are canceled without prejudice. The rejected claims are being canceled to expedite prosecution. However, the rejection of these claims is improper for at least the reasons set forth in the prior office response, and Applicant preserves his ability to present additional grounds for traversal in a continuing application.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant notes with appreciation that claim 47 is allowed.

II. Claim Rejections

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) Over Nabkel in View of Shnier and Uyeno

Claims 1, 30, 34, and 44-45 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over United States Patent No. 5,999,613 to Nabkel et al. (hereinafter "Nabkel") in view of United States Publication No. 2002/0009184 to Shnier (hereinafter "Shnier") and further in view of United States Patent No. 5,946,636 to Uyeno et al. (hereinafter "Uyeno"). As discussed above, claims 1, 30, 34, and 44-45 are canceled without prejudice rendering this rejection moot with regard to claims 1, 30, 34, and 44-45.
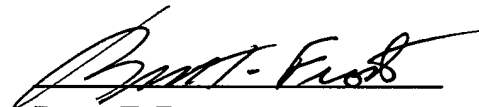
Claims Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) Over Shnier in View of Uyeno

Claims 48-50 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Shnier in view of Uyeno. As noted above, claims 48-50 are canceled without prejudice rendering this rejection moot with regard to claims 48-50.

CONCLUSION

For at least these reasons, Applicant asserts that pending claim 47 is in condition for allowance. The Applicant further asserts that this response addresses each and every point of the Office Action, and respectfully requests that the Examiner pass this application with claim 47 to allowance. Should the Examiner have any questions, please contact Applicant's attorney at 404.954.5042.

Respectfully submitted,

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